

LXII.—On a new Species of *Zamenis* and a new Species of *Bufo* from Egypt. By Dr. JOHN ANDERSON, F.R.S.

Zamenis Rogersi.

This snake is allied to *Z. rhodorhachis*, Jan, but differs from it in its body being less slender, the number of ventral and subcaudal shields falling below the range that occurs in that species, in which the former shields vary from 214 to 262 and the latter from 113 to 154, whereas in *Z. Rogersi* the ventrals, in five specimens, range only from 195 to 201, and the subcaudals from 95 to 105. It is also distinguished from *Z. rhodorhachis*, Jan, by the rostral shield being considerably broader than high, as its height only equals about one half of its breadth; whereas in *Z. rhodorhachis* the height of the rostral equals two thirds of its breadth or even more. The head of *Z. Rogersi* is broader than in *Z. rhodorhachis*, and its snout is not so pointed as in that species. The frontal is considerably longer than the interval between its anterior margin and the end of the snout. The temporals are 2+2, rarely 2+3, which is the reverse of what occurs in the species just mentioned. In the other details of its head-shields, with the exception of the præfrontals, which are occasionally united into one shield (two specimens from Shaloof, near Suez), and in the number of scales round the body it resembles *Z. rhodorhachis*.

It is also separated from Jan's *Zamenis* by its coloration. A longitudinal line of moderately large, more or less round, olive-brown spots commences behind the head, with a lateral series of smaller spots alternating with them. The two series, as they are traced backwards, become confluent about the middle of the length of the snake, behind which the colour of the upper surface is uniform olive-brown or nearly so. The spots are separated from one another, and also the more or less transverse bands formed by their confluence, by narrow yellowish-white areas. The upper surface of the head is brown, with very obscure dark markings. The rostral region is yellowish orange-brown, and a narrow somewhat obscure dark band occurs behind the nostril, followed by a bright yellow, almost orange, band before the eye. A dark oblique band below the eye. An orange band occurs behind the eye, succeeded by a broad dusky band crossing the temporals and the last upper labials, with a short yellow band behind it. The sides of the neck are suffused with orange. The underparts are yellowish white. A somewhat obscure dusky spot occasionally occupies the angle of every third or fourth

ventral, and sometimes a few obscure dusky small spots are seen between the angles of the ventrals and their keels.

The first specimen of this snake (a young one) was observed by Mrs. Anderson in the desert to the east of Helouan, near Cairo. Dr. Rogers Pasha sent me two adults from Beltim, between Rosetta and Damietta; and an Arab in charge of the salt concession at Shaloo, near Suez, forwarded two specimens from that locality.

I have much pleasure in connecting Dr. Rogers's name with this new form, as he has given me most invaluable assistance in my researches in Egypt.

Bufo Pentoni.

This toad in its general appearance resembles the pale irregularly spotted form of *Bufo regularis*, Reuss, so common in Egypt. So far, however, as its real affinities are concerned, it seems to be most closely allied to *B. viridis*; but it is at once distinguished from all the Old-World toads by the presence on the middle of the tarsus of a well-marked horny tubercle. The front of the snout of the adult is covered with a horny induration extending from the nostrils to the anterior angle of the eye, and backwards and between the eyes to the commencement of the interorbital space, but more or less traversed in the mesial line by a longitudinal furrow. This protection to the snout, the presence of two metatarsal tubercles, the innermost of which is a powerful shovel-shaped structure, and the existence of the tarsal tubercle, are features which would seem to indicate that this is a burrowing toad. The tympanum is vertically oval, and its transverse diameter equals about one half of the diameter of the eye from canthus to canthus. The breadth of the upper eyelid equals the interorbital space. The paratoid is large and somewhat oval in shape. The limbs are rather short and stout, and the hind limb when laid forwards has the tarso-metatarsal joint reaching the ear. The toes are moderately webbed.

The general colour in alcohol is olive-grey with a yellowish tinge, irregularly covered with more or less confluent dark markings. A darkish band across each eyelid. The dorsal glandules may be either reddish or yellowish.

This species was found by Dr. Penton, of the Egyptian Army, whose name I have associated with it, in the Shaata Gardens, situated about one mile outside Suakin. I am indebted to him for many other most interesting specimens from Suakin.